(iii) National Parks and Sanctuaries which constitute the Protected Areas have been kept aside for the conservation of wildlife and bio-diversity.

(iv) Guidelines have been issued for rationalizing the felling and tranist regulations for tree species grown on non-forest land to promote large scale afforestation in non-forest areas.

(v) Implementation of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for the regeneration of degraded forest and adjoining the forest land during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(vi) Multi Stake-holder Partnerships (MSP) involving state forest departments, the local village communities and private sector has been mooted for afforestation of degraded lands.

Declaration of Saranda Forests as virgin forests

2467. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would agree to declare Saranda forests under Jharkhand State as virgin forest; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no provision under any forest or related law to declare a forest as "Virgin Forests". Moreover, harvesting has been carried out in Saranda forest from 1880 to 1980 as per the prescription made in the working plan. Therefore, the Saranda forests can not be called as "Virgin Forests."

Lakes of Kerala under NLCP

2468. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many lakes from Kerala are included in the Ramsar site and whether Vembanadu lake from Kerala is included in the National Lake Conservation Programme;